



Forest Advisor Training Program

Goal: Enhanced stewardship and appreciation of King County's rural and urban forest resource supported by public education, community outreach, and peer advising.

Objectives:

- To increase public awareness of the importance of forests in King County's rural and urban landscapes;
- To foster active stewardship of these resources by private landowners and community groups;
- To educate, train, and empower citizens as community resources;
- To support citizen volunteers in their efforts to bring forestry information to their communities.

Who can become a Forest Advisor?

You do not need to be a forest landowner to be a Forest Advisor. We welcome urban, suburban, or rural residents who want to help promote understanding and stewardship of forests wherever they live.

How is the Forest Advisor training structured?

The Basic training program includes approximately 30 hours of instruction in the following areas:

- Western Washington Forest Ecology
- Forest Health
- Silviculture
- Forest Inventory
- Wetlands and Riparian Areas
- Soils
- Wildlife
- Puget Sound Tree and Shrub Identification
- Tree Planting Technique
- Volunteer Guidelines and Expectations

Most of these topics are covered in WSU Extension's Forest Stewardship Class, which is held several times each year. So, prospective Forest Advisors are encouraged to enroll in one of these classes to begin their training.

Once a volunteer has completed the Basic Training, he/she can begin completing service hours. New Forest Advisors will be provided with guidance in finding opportunities to return service hours. Some suggested projects include:

- Conducting a demonstration of proper tree planting techniques
- Staffing a forestry information station at a local fair or community event
- Leading educational activities for schools or youth organizations
- Being on hand as an educational resource at a King County volunteer planting event

Of course, Forest Advisors are also encouraged to come up with a project of their own.

Master Forest Advisor

The Forest Advisor program is structured to encourage continued education and service. Following completion of the Basic Forest Advisor training, volunteers are invited to participate in elective workshops, on topics of their choice including but not limited to:

- Chainsaw safety
- Thinning and pruning
- Restoration techniques
- Timber sale management
- Wood processing
- Forestry field days

Once a Forest Advisor has completed 10 hours of elective training, **and** returned 20 hours of service, he/she becomes a Master Forest Advisor. Master Forest Advisors are called upon for assistance with projects that require a higher level of expertise or experience. These may include:

- Responding to a request for advice from a property owner on forest health, fire protection, right-tree-right-site, storm damage, etc. – this may include a site visit
- Assisting with long-term inventory of county-owned forestlands
- Conducting a welcome-wagon type visit with a new property owner upon request

Does it cost anything to become a Forest Advisor?

The course fee for the Forest Stewardship Class (Basic training) is \$50 for Forest Advisor trainees. Additional training sessions are generally free of charge.

For more information, contact:

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Cooperating agencies: Washington State
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